



Washashore

Suzanne Goldsmith

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This year, everything changes for Clementine Harper.

Fourteen-year-old Clementine has left her city life in Boston to spend the winter on Martha's Vineyard. She's what the locals call a "Washashore" (WASH-a-shore) . . . someone who has come to live on the island but isn't from there. An outsider.

Clem doesn't have any friends and doesn't fit in. Her mom and dad aren't getting along. Coco, her best friend, is three hours away.

But then Clem finds a fallen bird—an osprey—on the beach. And she meets a lonely boy named Daniel.

And everything changes . . .

"A love story surrounded by this beautiful island—Martha's Vineyard—with its fragile shores and enduring birds. A tender-hearted story that calls out to save what we love so much." — Carly Simon, Grammy-winning singer and songwriter

"An adventure story in every sense of the word—the adventure, especially, of coming of age on an aging planet." — Bill McKibben, environmental activist, founder of 350.org and author of THE END OF NATURE

"The prose brings to life the era of the 1970s, but Goldsmith's themes are timeless and will resonate with teens and adults alike." — Lisa Klein, award-winning author of OPHELIA and CATE OF THE LOST COLONY

Washashore Details

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From Reader Review Washashore for online ebook

Michelle Crunkleton-Clark says

Set on Martha's Vineyard in the 1970's, Washashore is a coming-of-age novel with strong themes of family and friendship. There is also an ecological message, as the protagonists struggle with helping an osprey population thrive. It is a very enjoyable read.

D Bish says

A touching story about losing your home and your family and moving on. Bought this for my granddaughter, but browsed through it first (like I always do with any book) ended up reading the whole thing. I recommend this to anyone with a middle grade child or grandchild!

Lynn Anns says

Set in the 70's , fourteen year old Clem finds herself a "Washashore" someone who lives on the island of Martha's Vineyard but is not from there. Unable to fit in, she becomes involved with a shy boy named Daniel. Together they take on the task of trying to save an Osprey nesting pole. A beautiful story, set in a beautiful place. This YA novel will have you thinking of the sea and looking for Osprey.

Geri says

I got this book free through Goodreads.

A very good story with believable characters and situations that also teaches us about ospreys and our good/bad interactions with them.

I really enjoyed reading this book.

Audrey says

I have one word to describe this book: perfect.

I loved this book! It was so well written and kept my attention throughout the entire book unlike most books I read. I loved the style of writing and the time period. The characters were like-able and I could relate to them at times. I really want to read another book by her and I hope she is working on one. I definitely recommend this book.

Profesorar says

I loved this book. Goldsmith has a knack for capturing the little details that bring a scene and characters to emotional life. She is gifted at evoking mood and scene with regard to place--- her beach, sky and woods were almost palpable, and I felt as though I were there with the characters, feeling the weather, experiencing the cold and the wind. It's a great story, though, and Goldsmith moves it along quickly and deftly. There's no predictable happy ending; instead, the story's outcome feels organic, as though it were part of real life, where (as the protagonist comes to realize) "People and birds were alike. Things happened that hurt them or made their lives harder. All the time. But losing someone or something important didn't mean the end of everything. It meant you had to find a new way to do things." Goldsmith's characters develop, have their own quirks and reactions and world views, and they have to confront assumptions and change their minds. No stereotypes or cliches here. I particularly enjoyed the emotional and ethical struggles that the main characters have to work through. This is a wonderful book for teens, but it was deeply engaging for me as an adult. And I came away having learned a lot about Ospreys, nature, and ecosystems. A rewarding read on many levels, and one that I highly recommend!!!

Nancy S says

I loved this book. I find myself more and more enjoying novels that are intended for young adults, and this one is no exception.

Fallon says

I won this on goodreads giveaway. I enjoyed this story about nature friendship and first love. The book took a little bit to get into it. I also wanted to know and read more. There were so many relationship developments towards the end. Between Clem's patents and then between her and Daniel. I also wanted to know how there involvement benefited the Osprey.

Rebecca says

I fell in love with this book right from the beginning. The writing reminded me of Cynthia Voigt's Dicey's Song. Clem is self-reliant, introspective, and wise. Her life has been upended--her father has taken a job in another state, her mother has moved her from her home in the city to the quiet world of off-season Martha's Vineyard. Clem is lonely and lost until she finds an osprey on the beach and becomes intrigued by the bands on its legs. A whole new world opens up to her when she connects with other people involved with the ospreys on the island.

Andrew says

The first time a novel made me cry on public transit was Isabel Allende's *House of the Spirits* on a MBTA bus in 1992. The most recent time was on the Brooklyn-bound 4 train, this evening, with *Washashore*. I'm not trying to make a comparison between the novels except that they are both lovely and piercing. In fact, Suzanne Goldsmith's style in *Washashore* is so quiet, plainspoken and grounded that it couldn't be more different from floridly poetic magical realism. I never expected that a writing voice that calm and soft could break me open so assertively. Something else about this book that I love: it's a novel with an adolescent girl at its center, that acknowledges that sexual awakening is a thing, while finding time to show (not tell) that it's different for each person, and always being gentle enough in its approach that I could and will recommend it for thoughtful tweens. Full disclosure: I know the author personally and admire her greatly. Full disclosure, part two: *Washashore*, in its own low-key, tender way, earned every one of those stars in the rating.

Lu Ann says

'*Washashore*' is a poignant fictional tale about Fourteen-year-old Clementine Harper. Having to move from the home she had always known, her school, her best friend, Coco & the city she was comfortable in, to the spot they always vacationed at - Martha's Vineyard - Clementine felt despondent and confused. Adam - her father - was taking a job in Ohio, yet her mother - Nora - felt she had to stay at the University in Boston where she was secure in her position. She would have to leave Clem alone for a day and a night once a week while she taught at the University but the rest of the time she could transport to and from work. The summer home on Martha's Vineyards was hers - free and clear - so they would not have a monthly payment to live there.

Walking on the edge of the ocean one day, Clem discovered a very large, beautiful dead bird. It had metal bands on its legs. She felt impressed to cut them off before leaving the bird. A short time later, on a field trip, Bo (the local bird preserve man) told the class about the various endangered birds on the island including the osprey - who looked just like the dead bird she had found. Later she rode her bike to his place and showed him the metal bands and was told who they belonged to. Against her inclination, Bo insisted she needed to go and tell Daniel and show him the bands. This was the beginning of a new experiences in her life.

The story proceeds to describe the many bittersweet discoveries in that continuing year in Clem's forever changing life. New understanding also is awakened in that forth-coming year about life and its changing moments.

This story is very well-written and stirs different emotions in the reader. The characters feel like real people and the supporting background scenes are descriptively brought to actuality.

The book cover is simple but is done well. The Title is also simple and fitting.

My review of this book offers a Four and a Half Stars rating.

Tara says

While I found some parts of this book were predictable, I loved the Osprey parts. I am a fan of books not

always turning out perfectly and this was the case with this book. I applaud the author for taking this step to end the book in this manner. Hopefully people can learn a little more about our birds of prey and how amazing they are.

I would love to read a sequel and find out what happens with Daniel and Clem and their beloved birds.

L.A. Frazier says

A great book for middle school students. Historical fiction (yes the 70's are now historical - dang it!) that touches on the issue of ecology wrapped in a sweet teenage love story. My sister-in-law will be using it in her 6th grade class room! If you are a teacher - give this a read - your students will love it!

JL Smither says

In this delightful young adult novel, a 14-year-old girl who has just moved to Martha's Vineyard gets involved in the environmental movement of the 1970s. Although Clem is already reading *Silent Spring* on her father's suggestion, her immediate motivation is her interest in a shy boy who's involved in restoring the osprey population of Martha's Vineyard after they've been nearly wiped out from pesticide use.

I really loved how *Washashore* weaves in a real-life environmental message with realistic teenage problems—fitting in, feeling isolated, being bullied, watching her parents' marriage dissolve, growing up before she's quite ready, feeling like she needs to save the world, dealing with her first romantic relationship... whew! Really, there's a lot packed into here.

Washashore's characters feel very real. They all have their own lives and concerns happening outside of Clem's point of view, and that influences how they act toward one another. The pacing is steady throughout, building up to tension in several key scenes. And I especially liked that not everything works out perfectly for Clem. She's at an age where she has to deal with adult issues without really having the experience and skills she needs to handle them. She does her very best at everything she tries, and still there are wins and losses. So she has to learn how to move on from those.

The author has pulled together a story that incorporates so many important themes in such a subtle way that it's easy just to follow the characters along without noticing it. Instead, you grow along with them as they battle forces in their own lives. I would definitely recommend this both for young teenagers looking for a reflection of themselves and for their parents.

Shankar Kurra says

It was refreshing to finally read a book that portrayed a young adult woman in such a dignified manner. I think the author did a magnificent job of balancing all the emotions of the main character Clem in an honest way. If this is what young adult novels are all like, I might have to abandon reading adult novels!

